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Selected Reserve Force Will Maintain High Readiness

The nation's Selected Army National Guard and Reserve Force (SRF) will be maintained in a high state of readiness at least until mid-1967 as a combat ready force to meet any required mobilization.

This was revealed by National Guard Bureau Chief Maj. Gen. W. P. Wilson in assessing progress of the 150,000-man force organized a year ago.

The SRF was established with the objective, which has been achieved, of providing a strategic force to arrive at a crisis spot within nine weeks of alert. It took five months for a Guard division to achieve this deployment status during the Berlin crisis. In past wars it has taken a year or more.

Gen. Wilson said results of the organization have been fantastic. He referred to recent battalion-level tests, pointing out that 423 SRF units successfully passed the tests. This represents 86 percent of those tested.

Army Command, General Staff College Enrollment Up

Enrollment of officers in the Army Command and General Staff College regular course will increase from 784 to 1,344 beginning with school year 1967-68 to better qualify maximum numbers for command and general staff functions.

This will be accomplished by discontinuing the associate course and using the school's maximum capacity for the regular course. A mobilization course will be conducted specifically for Army Reserve and National Guard personnel during summer months while the regular course is not in session.

Reserve and Guard training will not be materially affected since the 154 associate course spaces previously allocated for the Reserve and Guard will be transferred to the mobilization course.

Each year 80 spaces are reserved for foreign students in the regular course and 72 in the associate course. Discontinuance of the associate course will reduce the spaces provided foreign officers. The number is not known pending a current review of requirements for the coming school year.

FOUR-STAR VISIT—Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, U.S. Army Vice Chief of Staff, talks with a member of a 4th Infantry Div. artillery unit in Vietnam. Maj. Gen. Arthur S. Collins Jr. (left), CG, 4th Inf. Div., accompanied Gen. Abrams during his visit.

SecDef Extends Sympathy To Fire-Stricken Carrier

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara has sent a message of sympathy to the commanding officer of the USS Oriskany, which was the scene of the worst disaster to hit the U.S. Seventh Fleet in the Vietnam war.

Flash fires raged through the Oriskany, operating off the coast of North Vietnam Oct. 26, killing 43 men and injuring 16, according to early reports.

Secretary McNamara's message read:

"To you and your gallant men and to the families of the brave sailors who lost their lives in the fire at sea, I send heartfelt sympathies. My visit aboard the Oriskany during fleet operations earlier this month afforded me the opportunity to observe the courage, professional skill and dedication of your officers and men. These attributes assure that even in this hour of tragedy the men who sail in Oriskany are preparing to resume their proud role in our fight against aggression."

The Oriskany was operating in the Gulf of Tonkin with the carriers USS Constellation and USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. The other two ships continued their missions despite the tragedy.

Washington Memos

ADM. DAVID L. MCDONALD, Chief of Naval Operations, is on tour of military and naval installations in Far East. He is expected to spend time on board ships of U. S. Seventh Fleet, and make stops in Alaska, Japan, Okinawa, South Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines, Guam and Hawaii. He is expected to return to Washington Nov. 9.

TWO NEW MANPOWER officials, both at the Deputy Assistant Secretary level, were selected in late October for Reserve Affairs and Civilian Personnel Policy. Maj.Gen. Autrey J. Maroun, 5th Inf. Div. CG, assumes his Reserve Affairs post Dec. 15, succeeding Brig.Gen. J. J. Irvin, appointed G-1 of U.S. Army Pacific in Hawaii. Mr. Carl W. Clewlow comes from Arthur Young and Co. to the new position of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower) for Civilian Personnel Policy.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS POLICY-GRAM system has been instituted in Pacific. It will reach subordinate commands such as task forces, ground divisions, air divisions and Marine air wings. CINCPAC said "Content will be limited to guidance which is not subject to change by CINCPAC or higher authority." Policy-Grams are not intended to usurp command prerogatives, CINCPAC stressed, pointing out idea is to maintain current file of key public affairs policies from Secretary of Defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff and CINCPAC itself.

ARMY SURGEON GENERAL'S office announced that Army Nurse of Year selected for 1966 will receive award from National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. This honor, offered by DAR President General, is in addition to annual award sponsored by surgeon general. Presentations are scheduled first week in February.

NINTH NAVAL DISTRICT, covering 13 Midwestern and Rocky Mountain States, has won Navy League's E. V. Richards Memorial Trophy for excellence in training and administering Naval Reserve Program, primary mission of Navy Districts. Navy League National President, Morgan L. Fitch, presented trophy to RAdm. Howard A. Yeager, Ninth Naval District Commandant.

AIR FORCE RESERVE unit, the 446th Troop Carrier Wing, Ellington AFB, Tex., has received special recognition from NASA for its "unique contribution to the United States manned spacecraft effort over the past four years." Specifically noted was the wing's flight testing support provided for parachute systems and radio location aid systems for the Gemini and Apollo programs.

ATTACK CARRIER USS Constellation is first surface ship of Pacific Fleet to administer undergraduate college courses to Navy students while at sea. Previously, program was available only to select few of Atlantic Fleet under "Polaris University Program," now changed to "Program for Afloat College Education." Program is being expanded to reach additional ships and isolated naval bases.

NAVY REFERENCE BOOK entitled "Glossary of Oceanographic Terms," officially numbered SP-35, hard-cover in 204 pages, has just been published by U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office at Suitland, Md. The book can be purchased from authorized Navy Oceanographic sales agents at $2.25 a copy or from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

COAST GUARD HAS announced departure of Cutter Rockaway for tropical Atlantic on extended oceanographic cruise in continuing study of water mass circulation between North and South Atlantic Oceans. Rockaway, recently converted to oceanographic configuration, joins Coast Guard Oceanographic Cutter Evergreen as second cutter assigned solely to study of the sea.

COMMANDANT'S AVIATION EFFICIENCY Award for FY66 goes to Marine All-Weather Fighter Squadron 212, first Marine jet squadron deployed aboard a carrier (CVA) for combat operations. Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Roy L. Johnson pointed out award can be won "only through devoted efforts and superb professionalism on the part of all hands."

25TH INF DIV has presented 50,000th gift under "Helping Hand" program conceived by Maj. Gen. Fred C. Weyand, commanding general. Toy was given to three-year-old orphan bringing total to 344.8 tons presented students, orphans and families of wounded and killed RVN soldiers. Articles are contributed by people of Hawaii, division's old home, and people in the Continental United States.

WW II NAVY VETERAN Dr. Lee Arnold has joined NASA as a consultant to Administrator James E. Webb who said his duties will concern technology areas which might be applicable to urban transportation problems. Dr. Arnold's last post was with New York University as Chairman of Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics and Director of Daniel Guggenheim School of Aeronautics.

VACUUM TECHNOLOGY MANUAL published by NASA for engineers, scientists and technicians is designed to fill a gap in available technical literature. Officially designated SP–105, "Vacuum Technology and Space Simulation," the 305-page reference work can be purchased for $1 from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

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Ho Chi Minh Needs Sure Sign Of Failure, Says Gen. Greene

North Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh needs a clear, unmistakable signal he is losing the war, said Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr., addressing Navy League's National Advisory Council.

Gen. Greene said heavy losses to Ho's manpower, damage to his country, political overtures and opportunity for economic gain, have failed to convince the North Vietnamese leader it is time to quit fighting and to start talking.

"But there is one thing I believe he will recognize as a sure sign of failure," the commandant said. "If the people of South Vietnam forsake him entirely, then he'll know he has lost."

The general spoke of five areas that must concern Ho, saying "his own guerrillas have violated a cardinal principle of insurgency. They have used assassination, outright murder, kidnapping, torture, and plain theft under the guise of taxation—in their efforts to control the people and make them finance the war."

Other concerns of Ho, as expressed by Gen. Greene, are the fact that South Vietnamese peasants have no affection for North Vietnamese regular forces, who are strangers; perimeters of allied influence are expanding; a fear campaign cannot be successful once more security is provided the people; and recent events, such as the elections, show firmness of the allied pacification effort.

The Marine Corps plan of action, the commandant said, is to link up I Corps area combat bases of Hue, Da Nang and Chu Lai, which will admittedly take time to accomplish in the pacification stage. This, he said, would extend control over more than 2,700 square miles.

Special Certificate Authorized For Some Without Honorable Discharge

President Johnson has signed a bill to permit issuance of "Exemplary Rehabilitation Certificates" to some former servicemen separated without honorable discharges.

"The certificates will not be issued lightly," the President said, noting that there are some half million men and women who have been separated from military service without honorable discharge.

The petitioner must justify to the Secretary of Labor that "He has led an exemplary life for at least three years since the date of his discharge."

Also, each application must be supported by statements from the chief law enforcement officer of the applicant's community, from his employer and from at least five other persons who can testify to his conduct and habits.

RECEIVES DSM—Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. McConnell congratulates Brig. Gen. Jack C. Ledford following presentation of the Distinguished Service Medal "for service as Director of Special Projects, Hq. USAF" for the past four years. Gen. Ledford is presently Air Force Director of Inspection, Norton AFB, Calif.

Air Force Secretary Lauds Efforts of National Guard

In a speech before the National Guard Association in Phoenix, Ariz., Secretary of the Air Force Harold Brown noted, "the citizen soldier—in so many ways—has met the challenge, and has become a professional as well as the regular."

The secretary said the most obvious strength of the National Guard lies in the fact that it is a resource of people and equipment and—above all—capability.

"No longer do we regard the Guard as simply a standby force," Secretary Brown stated.

He explained, "For some time we have been conceiving of it as an actual 'in-being' supplement to the regular forces, even while it still holds its reserve status."

On a global basis, the Air National Guard is now flying more than 200 flights monthly to overseas destinations. Seventy-five Southeast Asia support trips are flown by the Guard each month.

The secretary noted the many missions of the Air Guard.

Making reference to the regular alert status of Air Guard Air Defense units, Secretary Brown added, "The Army Guard has a similar mission area . . . at least 40 percent of the Nike Hercules units in the United States are run by Army Guardsmen."

Air Defense is a perfect function for the Guard, Secretary Brown explained.

Army Renews Guaranteed Tour Offer to RVN Vets

The Army is again offering a choice of stateside duty station and a guaranteed 12-month stabilized tour to Vietnam returnees who reenlist for four or more years.

This option, which was dropped last July because of the buildup, is extended to E-6s and below with less than seven years active service who complete a normal Vietnam tour.

Assignments will be handled by Army's Office of Personnel Operations with three choices of station or geographical area offered.

Individuals not due for separation may be discharged and immediately reenlisted before they leave Vietnam.

Those eligible for separation because of enlistment expiration are given wider latitude. They may reenlist before leaving Vietnam, or they may reenlist in the United States, or they may reenlist within three months after separation.

Apollo Astronauts Test Lunar Landing Vehicles

Two of man's weirdest looking flying machines, Lunar Landing Research Vehicles (LLRV), will arrive at the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, Tex., late in November. They presently are at NASA's Flight Research Center, Edwards AFB, Calif., undergoing tests.

Apollo astronauts will begin to fly the wingless, free-flying platforms on or about February to develop landing skills needed when they reach the moon.

Fabricated of lightweight, tubular trusses, the LLRV stands 10 feet high, is approximately 22 feet long and 13 feet wide, and a vertically mounted double gimbaled fan-jet engine provides 4,200 pounds of thrust. Sixteen attitude rockets for roll, pitch, and yaw control are mounted at each corner in clusters of four.

The pilot sits forward of the frame-like vehicle, much like the early pilot-venturers of the early 1900's.

PRESENTS AWARD—Marine Corps Gen. Holland M. Smith (ret.) chats with 1st Lt. Charles C. Krulak following presentation of a second Bronze Star Medal to the son of Lt. Gen. Victor H. Krulak, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific commanding general. Gen. Smith is the Godfather of Lt. Krulak.

Marine Corps Develops New Tank Use Concept

The Marine Corps has found another use for the tank—a use providing fast coverage of a Viet Cong area with pin-point accuracy.

The new concept works this way:

On many hilltops throughout the Marine tactical area of responsibility in Vietnam, observation posts have been set up overlooking thousands of miles of territory in which the Viet Cong operate.

At some of these outposts, prepared tank positions have been constructed from which the tanks' 90mm high velocity guns can reach far beyond the effective range of Marine small arms.

The crew, after making sure the tank's weapon is ready to fire, waits on alert in a nearby tent. When a target is located, an alarm is sounded and the crew "scrambles" into position. In seconds the first round is on its way.

Since June, tanks emplaced and loaded with ammunition have accounted for more than 90 dead Viet Cong by body count and have been used to blow up an enemy ammunition dump.

President Issues Thanksgiving Day Proclamation

President Johnson has issued a 1966 Thanksgiving Day proclamation stating, ". . . It behooves a grateful America to share its blessings with our brothers abroad, with those who have so little of the abundance that is ours."

The proclamation states, "Never, in all the hundreds of Thanksgiving Days, has our nation possessed a greater abundance, not only of material things but of the precious intangibles that make life worth living."

Noting that we do not yet have peace in the world, President Johnson pointed out, "Our men are engaged again, as they have been on so many other Thanksgivings, on a foreign field fighting for freedom. But we can be thankful for their strength that has always kept our liberty secure. We can be thankful for our science and technology that helps to guard our America."

The proclamation states, "Never have our greatest blessings—our freedoms—been more widely enjoyed by our people. Nor have we ever been closer to the day when every American will have an equal opportunity and an equal freedom."

Air Guard Airlift Statistics Announced

A National Guard Bureau tabulation of Vietnam missions by the 24 Air Guard military airlift groups shows more than 62 percent of C-97 and C-121 aircrews flew into the war zone in the first nine months of the activity.

Since "Christmas Star" gift airlift last November, 2,266 ANG aircrew members have made cargo and passenger airlift missions into Vietnam without being mobilized. These missions continue at the rate of 75 or more per month.

The report revealed that 376 guardsmen also flew missions into Santo Domingo in the first seven months of 1966.

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